THE PREVENTION of POVERTY;

OR, NEW

PROPOSALS

HUMBLY OFFERED,

FOR

ENRICHING the NATION

ADVANCING

His Majesties REVENUE,

AND

Great Advantage both of the City of *LONDON* and COUNTRY,

By Encreaſe of Trade from our own Manufactures, ſetting all Poor People at Work, preventing unneceſſary Law-Suits, reſtraining the Inſolencies of Bayliffs, Extortions of Goalers, promoting the Relief of diſtreſſed Priſoners, and ſuppreſſion of Beggars, Vagrants, *&c.*

Sæpe etiam eſt olitor verba opportuna locutus.

In all labour there is profit, but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury. Prov. 14. 23.

LONDON,

Printed for *H. H.* in the Year 1677.

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'TIS a good Maxime, *No Man ought to be wiser than the Law*; yet 'tis hop'd what tends to publique advantage, may with modesty, and due *submission* to Authority, be offered to *consideration*, especially in such Particulars not yet *determined* by Law, but additionally adapted to present Emergencies.

1. The first *Riches* of a Nation is the *Multitude of its Inhabitants*; The next Care, is by good *Education*, and strict Laws, to keep and enure them all to *Labour*, *Frugality*, and *Industry*; —— I will not undertake, because I fear 'tis but charming a deaf Adder, to perswade some City Shop-keepers and ordinary Tradesmen out of their fancy, *That the more there are of their way of dealing* (Cæteris paribus) *the worse it is for them*: But let them but look into the Sub-

urbs (if they never were in *Holland*) and examine whether it be not true, That where there are a Multitude of People, there the Conſumption is augmented, and every one makes buſineſs for his Neighbour; where there is beſt choice, flock moſt Buyers. Since Wars, Peſtilence, and eſpecially Plantations abroad, have much drain'd away our People, I ſubmit it whether the prudence of the preſent, or after Ages, may not think an Act of Endenization convenient for encouragement of foreign Artificers, *&c.* to cohabit amongſt us. This I am pretty confident, it will at preſent not be unneceſſary to ſuppreſs the numerous Swarms of Beggars and Vagrants which in all parts abound, to the vaſt ſcandal, detriment, and danger of the Nation, notwithſtanding the wholſome Statutes heretofore made; to actuate and enliven which with execution, a competent reward for every Perſon that ſhall apprehend ſuch ſturdy Vagrant, and bring him, or her, to the Officer of the Pariſh, where taken, may perhaps not be unuſeful.

2. When in any Nation Commodities are Imported to a greater value than what are Exported, Impoveriſhment ſeems unavoidable, for then our ready Money muſt go out to even the Ballance; whence it appears a Kingdom may be in as much danger by a great Trade ill managed, as by too little; it ſeems therefore propoſable that ſpecial care be taken to improve Commodities of our own growth and Manufacture, and reſtrain the bringing in of ſuperfluities and unneceſſaries.

3. Hence 'tis conſiderable, whether the vaſt quantity of Linen Cloth now purchaſed abroad might not be

be ſpared, and a ſufficient ſupply raiſed at home, by encouraging the growth of Hemp, and Flax, *&c.* which will not only raiſe the Rents of our Lands, but alſo continually ſet at work thouſands of idle hands (eſpecially of Women and Children, our greateſt burthen;) To which I know not why we may not add, The ſparing (at leaſt in a great degree) of *French* Wine, by promoting Sider (altogether as pleaſant, and poſſibly more wholſome and agreeable to *Engliſh* Bodies) in its ſtead.

4. To keep our Money from croſſing the Sea, I acknowledge there are excellent Laws provided, how well obſerved I ſhall not ſay, only add, That 'tis the opinion of many ſober and obſerving Men, that the end will ſcarce ever be attained, unleſs it be made Mens *Intereſt* as well as *Duty*, not to Export it; To which purpoſe an Expedient was offered about two years ſince in Print, by *R. Haynes* of *Sullington* in *Suſſex*: Printed for Major *Brooks* in *Cornhill*, lately deceaſed; To which I refer the inquiſitive.

5. If ſcarcity of Money be objected as the grand hindrance of Trade amongſt us, and cannot be ſupply'd by ſuch Expedient, there want not means otherwiſe to raiſe credit that may anſwer that End: To this purpoſe the late *Lumbard* at *Devonſhire-houſe* was Erected, and in purſuance thereof, only altering the Veſting of it in the Chamber of *London*, from private hands Propoſals have ſince been made.

"That the Chamber of *London* Erect an Office, "with convenient Ware-houſes and Storage for "Goods of all ſorts, furniſht with Officers as well "reſponſible in regard of Eſtate, as skilful in valuing

"and

" and keeping ſuch Commodities, and the Accounts " thereof. Upon the bringing in of Goods into which " Office, Bills of Credit may be advanc'd to two Thirds, " three Fourths, or upwards, according to their Na- " ture; And the ſame being apprais'd, mark'd, and a " Bill of Sale Regiſtred for the Offices ſecurity; the " Goods are entred Debtor, the Deliverer Creditor, " who may have a Bill of Credit payable at ſeven " Months, more or leſs, as the Goods are more or " leſs periſhable, allowing Three *per Cent.* which " Credit he may (as his occaſions require) write off " to any that he is, or ſhall be indebted unto; and " has liberty at his pleaſure, to ſee and ſell ſuch Goods; " which being done, before removal, he ſatisfies the " Office: or if not redeem'd in the limited time, they " are ſold by Inch of Candle, and the over-plus re- " turn'd, *&c.* Nor need I ſpend time to ſhew how " theſe Bills of Credit may be transferr'd from one to " another, and ſerve to all intents, as well as Money, " in conſiderable Commerce amongſt us, none ha- " ving reaſon to refuſe or diſtruſt ſuch Security, ſince " 'tis built upon a real *Found* depoſited in ſafe hands, " as aforeſaid.

Many other leſſer Offices of the ſame nature might be ſet up in every City, to furniſh the Poor with Credit (or Money in ſome caſes) on their Wares or Goods, whereby their ruine by unconſcionable Brokers, Tally-men, *&c.* would be prevented.

6. 'Tis ſad to conſider, what vexations Poor People in the Suburbs of this City undergo, by means of unjuſt and trivial Arreſts; how many hundreds are thereby yearly ruined, and their Families brought

to

to Parish maintenance; which within the Franchise of *London* is avoided, by that excellent Court establisht by King *James P. M.* deservedly call'd *The Court of Conscience*; Judicatures of which kind might be as easily Erected in the Suburbs, where they are more necessary, by reason of greater Confluence there, of People mean and indigent.

7. The whole Business of Arrests and Imprisonment for Debt (at least by *Capias* before Judgment) deserves Consideration, if not Regulation; This is certain, *From the beginning it was not so*; Nor shall I dispute what our Ancestors did to make *Trusting Fools* wise, or *Ticking Knaves* honest; However the present Course seems a little Incongruous.

1. In *Nature*, consequently in Law: Nothing being distrainable but what can satisfie, which must be an Estate either in Land or Goods; for the Body is neither saleable, nor eatable.

2. In *Discretion*. The Creditor hereby disabling the Debtor, renders his Debt more desperate.

3. In *Reason* of State. Depriving the Soveraign of his Subjects, whose Bodies thus immured might otherwise be serviceable in Peace or War.

4. In *Justice* and Conscience. That a Man should be debarr'd of his Liberty (the greatest Enjoyment temporal) on a suggestion, before it be judicially prov'd that he is either Debtor or Trespasser; Experience witnessing, that hardly one Arrest in ten, but is either wholly causeless, for Spleen, Revenge, or some Inconsiderable Trifle.

5. In *Commerce*. Spend-thrifts are allur'd to Rookings, and the trusting Dealer is but smoothered in his

his own Feathers; For to pack off his Wares at any rate, he readily Books the loose Gallant beyond the reach of his Purse; and if his Fortune fall short, curses his confidence; and to *eke* out his revenge, takes forth a *Capias* for his Carcass, which proves but throwing good Money after bad; for where one crawls out, twenty are swallow'd up, or devoured by excessive Fees, and debaucheries commonly incident to Goals.

In a word, If it be true (what not a few judicious and inquisitive Men affirm) That there is more money spent in *England*, in less than seven years space, amongst Bayliffs, Goalers, and *Suits* of Law, as would pay all the Debts in the Nation; If we may find above *fifty thousand* Persons constantly in Prison upon Civil Actions, besides short Interlopers, and such as Death delivereth from the Imprudence (not to say Cruelty) of their Adversaries; what recompence can the Kingdom have for its being depriv'd of so many members? what confusion and misery is there amongst so many wretched Persons and their Families? How can our Country be without store of *Beggars*, Rogues, and Vagrants, till to vast an Inconvenience find a Remedy? And will it not be *Pity* (or rather shame) if in one of the most ingenious Nations in the World for Knowledge, Vertue, and Religion, the *Expedient* should be yet to *seek*; or if found, not put in *practice*.

FINIS.